

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 4:30 on Zoom

The Meeting opened at 4:35 .

Members Present: Emily Eyre (co-chair), Juliette Haas, Sharon Waskow, Richard Allen, Marj Wexler. Also present: Bonnie Greenwood, Lucinda Vermeulen

Minutes of the September 8, 2021 meeting were accepted unanimously.

Old Business

Sustainability Coordinator Report

The Revenue share from the transfer station was \$33.88. The amount is high because petroleum prices are high. Reminder: The annual green committee report is due at the end of November. This opens the committee up for grant funds.

Blue bin giveaway at Transfer station on 10/16 and 10/17

We received a grant of \$1200 to purchase 100 bins.

Juliette has "recycling swag" to give away. Green committee volunteer time slots are

Saturday 10/16:

Juliette -all day

Sharon 9-11

Pat 11-1

Marge 11:30 -1

Sunday 10/17

Emily and Richard 11-1

Talking Points for transfer station duty:

- Ask residents if they need info on recycling
- Offer brochures with do's and don'ts
- Remind people not to recycle tangles such as strings of Christmas lights
- Direct people to Springfield Merf and Recyclopedia.com for further information

Richard mentioned that our stuff is recycled by Springfield and that the town comes out better financially if we recycle rather than put in trash.

Juliette mentioned that people could be told to return redeemables bottles themselves which makes transfer station loads lighter.

Marge added that bottles add weight and cans add volume.

Report on Restaurant reduction of single use plastics initiative

Sharon described the proposed approach to restaurants as very friendly, light. We will begin by asking what the restaurant already does. Initially will offer ideas that are no-cost to the eatery.

Repair cafe postponed till Spring

Due to location logistics and the issue of holding events indoors during Covid, it was decided to postpone the event

Status of Pill bottle shipping

Emily reported that the cost of pill bottle shipping to the charity had been covered by Mary Brazie who paid for shipping to the Charity. The cost was about \$50 per box.

Emily found an organization in Pittsfield - Berkshire Amistaad, run by Eddie O'Toole. He sends needed supplies to Honduras. Emily will drive the bottles to Pittsfield. Cost of shipping covered by Amistaad. Juliette recommended taking the water softener bags to Pittsfield and suggested making a coordinated run about every two months).

New Business

Emily raised the option to change meeting time to later to accommodate member attendance. She suggested changing the time to 5 pm. Vote was unanimously in favor.

Annual Report

Lucinda mentioned that the Green Committee report is due on Nov 1. She also reminded that the Tritown committee meeting is held quarterly and that it offers an excellent exchange of ideas. She suggested that Green committee attendance could be beneficial. She also referenced the All Boards meeting on November 2 at 6 pm to which all committee chairs are invited

Possibility for funding for the Green committee

Sharon asked if there is a possibility for some funds for the Green Committee?

Lucinda counseled to hold on to receipts and that the committee could be reimbursed for gas etc.

Emily mentioned that we sold the barrels for cost and asked if we should we have fund raised by adding more to the cost? Lucinda recommended asking Mary Brazie if we can fund raise. She reminded the committee that it's budget time and encouraged applying for some money. Juliette said there was \$350 for sustainability but that it went away in July. She and Richard recommended the committee put together a line item expense proposal as other committees receive money.

Emily asked what would be a reasonable amount to ask and suggested the amount could be to cover the cost of promotional and educational materials.

Richard informed us that the timeline for making a budget proposal is December/January/February.

Juliette said the town gets a DEP grant of \$4000. If the committee plans a waste reduction or recycling effort it could take it out of his fund. She thought it was a good idea to cover travel expenses.

Berkshire Edge Article

Sharon mentioned that she and Pat are planning to Interview Susan Waite, the new Municipal Assistance Coordinator for the region. It was suggested that we invite her to a Green committee meeting.

Hybrid meetings

Emily posed whether we can hold hybrid meetings in the future at town hall (in person) and on Zoom. Green committee had a zoom account but someone has to be in person at City Hall to use their account. Richard asked if we must have in-person quorum for hybrid? The current number for a quorum is 3. We currently have 7 members with one member, Robyn Goldberg on leave. Sharon asked if some of the rules would be adjusted for pandemic.

Lucinda said that someone at town hall sets up the meeting and we can login from anywhere. Juliette asked what are our comfort levels meeting in person? She said there will be a state ruling on this. The vote on comfort level for meeting in person was, Marge, Emily, Sharon for Zoom; Juliette, either way. Lucinda reminded that the Select board meets in person and attendees are on Zoom.

Next Meeting Date

November 11, 2021 It will be held via Zoom unless otherwise indicated.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 .